

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /063 W
----- 076099

R 122345Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6475

INFO DEPT OF DEFENSE WASHDC

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CANAL ZONE

COMUSARSO FT AMADOR CZ

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0982

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE PROCEDURES

DEPT FOR PM; DEFENSE FOR ASD/ISA AND DA(TSG)

REF: A. MSG DA (TSG) 161958Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

B. MILGP C.R. 182100Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

C. MSG DA (TSG) 251816Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

D. MSG MILGP C.R. 282205Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

E. MSG MILGP C.R. 231745Z FEB 74 (NOTAL)

F. MSG DA(TSG) 041652Z MAR 74 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY WAS INFORMED BY REF A OF PROPOSED VISIT OF
US ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH PERSONNEL TO COSTA RICA TO PERFORM
LIAISON WITH LOCAL RESEARCHER, DR. RODRIGO ZELEDON.
RESEARCH IS BEING CONDUCTED ON HUMAN SUBJECTS THROUGH DA
GRANT TO LSU.

2. EMBASSY WAS PREVIOUSLY UNAWARE OF PROJECT AND
REQUESTED FURTHER INFORMATION VIA MILGP MSG (REF B).
DA RESPONSE PROVIDED PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND VOLUNTEERED
TO "BRIEF THE EMBASSY AT LENGTH" UPON ARRIVAL IN COUNTRY
IF DESIRED PRIOR TO DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST COUNTRY
NATIONAL (REF C). CLEARANCE WAS GRANTED AND VISITORS
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WERE ADVISED TO COORDINATE WITH MILGP COMMANDER FOR MEET-

ING WITH CHARGE "PRIOR TO MEETING WITH DR. ZELEDON" (REF D). NOTHING FURTHER WAS HEARD FROM VISITORS. MILGP ASCERTAINED THAT VISIT HAD BEEN PERFORMED AND REQUESTED INFORMATION AS TO FAILURE TO ESTABLISH REQUESTED CONTACT WITH EMBASSY (REF E).

3. RESPONSE (REF F) PROFESSES FAILURE TO BE "TOTALLY ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR. ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION TO PURPOSELY AVOID COORDINATION WAS IMPLIED." MESSAGE ALSO STATES THAT DR. ZELEDON WAS CONTACTED AND ALSO REV. BENJAMIN NUNEZ, RECTOR OF NEW NATIONAL UNIVERSITY WHO IS PERSONAL FRIEND OF ONE OF THE VISITORS.

4. EMBASSY HAS BASIC RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ANY RESEARCH INVOLVING THE USE OF HUMAN SUBJECTS. IT WAS THE EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL SUCH RESEARCH PROJECTS RECEIVE EMBASSY APPROVAL PRIOR TO AWARD OF CONTRACT. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO INFORMATION ON THIS PROJECT HAS EVER BEEN GIVEN TO GOCR AUTHORITIES, YET REVEREND NUNEZ--WHO AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE IS VERY PROMINENT LOCAL PERSONAGE--VERY PROBABLY NOW KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT THAN WE DO.

5. IN VIEW DETAILED SERIES OF COMMUNICATIONS REVIEWED PARA 2 ABOVE, EMBASSY DOES NOT CONSIDER EXPLANATION OFFERED IN REF (F) FOR FAILURE TO MAKE CONTACT HERE TO BE ACCEPTABLE. WE WOULD STILL LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT DA(TSG) PERSONNEL WILL FOLLOW ESTABLISHED CLEARANCE PROCEDURES IN FUTURE.
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Message Attributes

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